

BILL RICHARDSON Governor DIANE DENISH Lieutenant

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

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RON CURRY Secretary JON GOLDSTEIN Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 20, 2009

Mr. Timothy E. Eastep, Manager Environment, Land & Water Department Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. Chino Mines Company P.O. Box 7 Hurley, New Mexico 88043

RE:

Approval of Extension Request for submittal of Remedial Investigation Proposa

Lampbright Investigation Unit

Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

Dear Mr. Eastep:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the extension request letter via email on October 19, 2009. The letter requests the extension in order to resolve a difference of interpretation of the Lampbright Investigation Unit boundary and possible overlap with Discharge Permit activities. The letter also requests that Chino and NMED set a meeting date to discuss the issues.

NMED approves the extension request and will establish a new due date for the Remedial Investigation Proposal following our meeting. NMED will contact Chino to confirm a meeting date.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 575-388-1934.

Sincerely.

Phil Harrigan, Chino AOC Project Manager Mining Environmental Compliance Section

Ground Water Quality Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department

Silver City Field Office

cc:

Mary Ann Menetrey, NMED Jerry Schoeppner, NMED Mark Purcell, USEPA

